

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned Application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) An intelligent, program controlled system for providing services relating to transaction tax data computation, report remittance and funds transfer between at least one subscriber and a selected government authority over an interactive communications network, the system having a multilayer architecture incorporating a modular programming infrastructure, which comprises:

a service module for performing and operatively housing a plurality of discrete system security operations including a first security module for protecting the system from entry of unwanted data during data transfer over the network and a second security module for controlling user access to at least one of the system services;

a system management and monitoring module including a subscriber availability module for monitoring the availability of subscriber servers in real-time to insure relatively continuous availability of the services over the network, a notification module for transmitting a message to a system administrator when a selected condition has been met, an operating system module for monitoring usage of the operating system, and a system availability module for monitoring the availability of internal support processes in real-time to insure relatively continuous availability of the services over the network;

a system operations module including a system backup and recovery module for periodically performing backup of system data so as to maintain a plurality of duplicate data sets on each system server for auditing and database recovery, a secure access module for allowing the system administrator to access the system remotely, the system having programming for encrypting all data transferred so as to eliminate eavesdropping, connection hijacking and network-level virus attacks, and a system utility module for tracking login/logout, object creation, deletion, editing and rule base changes; and

a system load balancing and scalability module for managing system resources, for balancing the data load between servers, for detecting a selected change in data load and activating standby systems for handling increased system data volume, and for switching the data load from one server to the other upon server failure;

the multilayer architecture including a subscriber layer having at least one subscriber server for hosting a virtual portal with at least one application for providing the services to subscribers, an interactive communications network layer having at least one device for protecting the system from entry of unwanted data during data transfer from the subscriber layer through the network layer, an applications layer for interpreting transaction requests or messages entering the system and invoking Web-based services, a database layer, and a financial link layer;

the network layer including a first service provider server with programming for parsing Web protocol coded messages entering the system, the server programming providing for receiving a tax computation transaction request from the subscriber server, transmitting the request to a tax computation module, and returning the data processed by the service provider module to the subscriber server, wherein the tax computation

module, upon receiving the transaction request from the service provider system, calculates sales and/or use tax due for payments and accruals, and transmits a selected reply to the subscriber server that includes the tax due and the total amount of the transaction.

Claim 2 (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 1, wherein the first security module is a managed firewall device.

Claim 3 (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 1, wherein the second security module requires user authorization and authentication for access to the at least one of the system services.

Claim 4 (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 1, wherein the network layer includes the load balancing and scalability module for detecting the current data load entering the system and selectively redirecting the destination of data transfer for optimum system operation and management.

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 5, wherein the network layer comprises a service provider module on the first service provider server for interpreting XML-based transaction requests or messages entering the system and invoking Web-based services at the applications level.

Claim 7 (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 5, wherein the network layer comprises a service provider module on the first service provider server for interpreting TXP-based transaction requests or messages entering the system and invoking Web-based services at the applications level.

Claim 8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 5, wherein the server programming hosts tax computation programming and programming for transaction tax data report remittance over the interactive communications network.

Claim 10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (previously presented) An intelligent, program controlled system for providing services relating to transaction tax data computation, report remittance and funds transfer between at least one subscriber and a selected government authority over an interactive communications network, the system having a multilayer architecture incorporating a programming infrastructure, which comprises:

a first security function for protecting the system from entry of unwanted data during data transfer over the network;

a second security function for controlling user access to at least one of the system services;

a subscriber availability function for monitoring the availability of subscriber servers in real-time to insure relatively continuous availability of the services over the network;

a notification function for transmitting a message to a system administrator when a selected condition has been met;

an operating system function for monitoring usage of the operating system;

a system availability function for monitoring the availability of internal support processes in real-time to insure relatively continuous availability of the services over the network;

a system backup and recovery function for periodically performing backup of system data so as to maintain a plurality of duplicate data sets on each system server for auditing and database recovery,

a secure access function for allowing the system administrator to access the system remotely, the system having programming for encrypting all data transferred so as to eliminate eavesdropping, connection hijacking and network-level virus attacks;

a system utility function for tracking login/logout, object creation, deletion, editing and rule base changes; and

a system load balancing and scalability function for managing system resources, for balancing the data load between servers, for detecting a selected change in data load and activating standby systems for handling increased system data volume, and for switching the data load from one server to the other upon server failure;

the multilayer architecture including a subscriber layer having at least one subscriber server for hosting a virtual portal with at least one application for providing the

services to subscribers, an interactive communications network layer having at least one device for protecting the system from entry of unwanted data during data transfer from the subscriber layer through the network layer, an applications layer for interpreting transaction requests or messages entering the system and invoking Web-based services, a database layer, and a financial link layer, the financial link layer including a tax computation module for calculating sales and/or use tax due for payments and accruals upon each transaction request received, and transmitting the tax due and the total amount of the transaction to the subscriber layer.

Claim 12 (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 11, wherein the network layer comprises a first service provider server having programming for parsing Web protocol coded messages entering the system.

Claim 13 (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 12, wherein the server programming provides for receiving a tax computation transaction request from the subscriber server, transmitting the request to a tax computation module, and returning the data processed by the service provider module to the subscriber server.

Claim 14 (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 13, wherein the tax computation module, upon receiving the transaction request from the service provider system, calculates sales and/or use tax due for payments and accruals, and transmits a selected reply to the subscriber server that includes the tax due and the total amount of the transaction.

Claim 15 (previously presented) An intelligent, program controlled system for providing services relating to transaction tax data computation, report remittance and funds transfer between at least one subscriber and a selected government authority over an interactive communications network, the system having modular programming which comprises:

a first module operatively housing a security module for insuring system security during data transfer over the network, the security module providing at least encryption, user access control and subscriber/server authentication operations;

a second module for periodically performing backup of system data so as to maintain a plurality of duplicate data sets on each system server for auditing and database recovery;

a third module operating in real-time for insuring to the subscribers and government authority that the services are available and accessible relatively continuously;

a fourth module for enabling the system to be monitored remotely by selected technical personnel; and

a fifth module for managing system resources, for balancing the data load between servers, for detecting a selected change in data load and activating standby systems for handling increase in system transaction data from a relatively large number of subscribers, and for distributing system workloads according to the increased data;

the multilayer architecture comprising a subscriber layer, an interactive communications network layer, an applications layer, a database layer, and a financial link layer, the financial link layer including a tax computation module for calculating sales and/or